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THE FORTIETH DOOR

Chapter One
"The Secret Portal"

Hamid Bey, a high official of Cairo, holds proof that Tewfick Pasha, is a smuggler of hashish. He promises to destroy his evidence on the day Tewfick's daughter, Aimee, is married to him. Jack Ryder, excavating a tomb of an ancient Pharaoh which he has discovered, attends a masked ball in Cairo and there meets and falls in love with Aimee, who has stolen away from her father's palace. It is a great indiscretion and she is frightened at her daring, and tells Jack he can never see her again. That afternoon, in an unfortunate encounter with Hamid Bey, Jack incurred the enmity of the nobleman and, while he is pleading with Aimee in the hotel garden, one of Hamid's servants swings at the American's head a death-dealing weapon.

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